



Tobacco Prevention & Control Program
Assessment and Evaluation Team



Washington State Department of

Health

Public Health - Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Washington

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Introduction

The Washington State Tobacco Facts is designed as a quick reference for the most current state-level data on tobacco use and its impact. This is the first report put out by the Washington State Tobacco Prevention and Control (TPC) Program and will be updated annually at the beginning of the year to help with ongoing program planning and public education about the importance of tobacco control.

Since the implementation of the TPC Program in 1999, Washington State has seen significant declines in tobacco use and increasing public awareness of the harmful effects of smoking. Overall evaluation results thus far show that....

- the number of adult smokers has declined by 130,000. (page 6)
- there has been about 51,000 screened calls made to the Washington State Tobacco Quitline. (page 15)
- smoking prevalence has declined among Washington's children, resulting in 65,000 fewer children smoking. (page 18)
- the rate of smoking among pregnant women has dropped 30% (from 14.6% to 10.2%). (page 22)
- secondhand smoke exposure in Washington homes with children has gone down by 47%. (page 23)

I. Adult Cigarette Use

- In 2004, approximately 19.2% of Washington adults smoke cigarettes – equivalent to about 850,000 people. Our 19.2% smoking prevalence is lower than the national average of 21% (Median %) for the same year.

Percentage of Adults who Smoke by Gender, 2004

Male	20%
Female	18%
All Adults	19.2%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

Percentage of Adults who Smoke by Age, 2004

18-24	26%
25-34	23%
35-44	22%
45-54	19%
55-64	16%
65 and above	9%
All Adults	19.2%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

Percentage of Adults who Smoke by Education, 2004

Less than High School Degree	32%
High School Degree	27%
Some College	21%
College Graduate	9%
All Adults	19.2%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

Percentage of Adults who Smoke by Household Income, 2004

Less than \$15,000	29%
\$15,000-24,999	29%
\$25,000-34,999	24%
\$35,000-49,000	19%
\$50,000 or more	13%
All Adults	19.2%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

Percentage of Adults who Smoke by Health Insurance Status, 2004

Do not have health insurance	36%
Have health insurance	16%
Unknown	14%
All Adults	19.2%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

Percentage of Adults who Smoke by Race/Ethnicity, 2004

White, non-Hispanic	19%
Hispanic	17%
African American, non-Hispanic	20%
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	15%
Native American/Alaskan Native, non-Hispanic	33%
Other, non-Hispanic	12%
Multiracial, non-Hispanic	28%
All Adults	19.2%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004
Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race. See Appendix A.

Percentage of Adults who Smoke by Urban/Rural Location, 2004

Urban Core Area	19%
Large Metro Area	20%
Large Town	19%
Small Town/Rural Area	21%
Statewide	19.2%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004
Urban/Rural designation using the Rural-Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) codes. See Appendix A.

Percentage of Adults who Smoked by Region, 2004

North Sound	17%
West Balance	24%
King	15%
Other Puget Sound Metro	21%
Clark	21%
East Balance	20%
Spokane	22%
Yakima-TriCities	22%
Statewide	19.2%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

Regional designations are the same as the Washington State Population Survey – additional information can be found at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/sps/>

Regions:

North Sound:	Island, San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom
West Balance:	Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, , Klickitat, Lewis, Mason,, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum.
King:	King
Other Puget Sound Metro:	Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston
Clark:	Clark
East Balance:	Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman.
Spokane:	Spokane
Yakima-TriCities:	Benton, Franklin, and Yakima.

Percent age of Adults who Smoke by Year, 1999-2004

	English Speaking	Spanish Speaking	Overall Population
1999	22.4%	N/A	22.4%
2000	20.7%	N/A	20.7%
2001	22.5%	N/A	22.5%
2002	21.5%	N/A	21.5%
2003	19.8%	12.2%	19.5%
2004	19.5%	12.6%	19.2%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Progress as of 2004:

Since implementation of the state's comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, current use of cigarettes has decreased by approximately 13% among smokers from 1999 to 2004. The drop in general adult smoking moved the state up in rank from 20th in 1999 to 9th in 2004 in terms of lowest overall smoking prevalence in the nation. This is a reduction of 130,000 fewer smokers in Washington since 1999.

II. Adult Alternative Tobacco Use

Cigar smoking

- In 2004, approximately 6% of Washington adults say that they smoked cigars in the past 30 days – equivalent to about 265,000 people

Percentage of Adults who Smoked Cigars in the past 30 days by Age and Gender, 2004

	Male	Female	Total
18-24	24%	7%	16%
25-34	11%	4%	8%
35-44	7%	2%	5%
45-54	8%	2%	5%
55-64	5%	1%	3%
65 and above	2%	0.4%	1%
All Adults	9.7%	2.5%	6.0%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

Percentage of Adults who Smoked Cigars by Education, 2004

Less than High School Degree	8%
High School Degree	7%
Some College	6%
College Graduate	4%
All Adults	6.0%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

Percentage of Adults who Smoked Cigars in the past 30 days by Household Income, 2004

Less than \$15,000	7%
\$15,000-24,999	6%
\$25,000-34,999	6%
\$35,000-49,000	5%
\$50,000 or more	6%
All Adults	6.0%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

**Percentage of Adults who Smoked Cigars in the past 30 days
by Health Insurance Status, 2004**

Do not have health insurance	9%
Have health insurance	5%
Unknown	13%
All Adults	6.0%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

**Percentage of Adults who Smoked Cigars in the past 30 days
by Race/Ethnicity, 2004**

White, non-Hispanic	6%
Hispanic	7%
African American, non-Hispanic	12%
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	5%
Native American/Alaskan Native, non-Hispanic	7%
Other, non-Hispanic	7%
Multiracial, non-Hispanic	12%
All Adults	6.0%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004
Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race. See Appendix A.

**Percentage of Adults who Smoked Cigars in the past 30 days
by Region, 2004**

North Sound	7%
West Balance	5%
King	6%
Other Puget Sound Metro	7%
Clark	7%
East Balance	6%
Spokane	7%
Yakima-TriCities	4%
Statewide	6.0%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004
Regional designations are the same as the Washington State Population Survey –
additional information can be found at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/sps/>

Regions

North Sound:

Island, San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom

West Balance: Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, , Klickitat, Lewis, Mason,, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum.

King: King

Other Puget Sound Metro: Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston

Clark: Clark

East Balance: Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman.

Spokane: Spokane

Yakima-TriCities: Benton, Franklin, and Yakima.

Percentage of Adults who Smoked Cigars in the past 30 days by Year, 2003-2004

2003	6.2%
2004	6.0%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Progress as of 2004:

Since implementation of the state's comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, current use of cigars has remained unchanged in the past few years.

Smokeless tobacco use

- In 2004, approximately 3.5% of Washington adults use smokeless tobacco – equivalent to about 155,000 people.

Percentage of Adults who Used Smokeless Tobacco by Age and Gender, 2004

	Male	Female	Total
18-24	7%	0.6%	4%
25-34	11%	1%	6%
35-44	10%	0.1%	5%
45-54	4%	0%	2%
55-64	4%	0.2%	2%
65 and above	2%	0.1%	1%
All Adults	6.7%	0.3%	3.5%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

**Percentage of Adults who Used Smokeless Tobacco
by Education, 2004**

Less than High School Degree	3%
High School Degree	5%
Some College	3%
College Graduate	2%
All Adults	3.5%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

**Percentage of Adults who Used Smokeless Tobacco
by Household Income, 2004**

Less than \$15,000	2%
\$15,000-24,999	3%
\$25,000-34,999	3%
\$35,000-49,000	5%
\$50,000 or more	4%
All Adults	3.5%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

**Percentage of Adults who Used Smokeless Tobacco
by Health Insurance Status, 2004**

Do not have health insurance	3%
Have health insurance	3%
Unknown	7%
All Adults	3.5%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

Percentage of Adults who Used Smokeless Tobacco by Race/Ethnicity, 2004

White, non-Hispanic	4%
Hispanic	2%
African American, non-Hispanic	4%
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	1%
Native American/Alaskan Native, non Hispanic	9%
Other, non-Hispanic	0%
Multiracial, non-Hispanic	3%
All Adults	3.5%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004
Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race. See Appendix A.

Percentage of Adults who Used Smokeless Tobacco in the past 30 days by Region, 2004

North Sound	3%
West Balance	4%
King	2%
Other Puget Sound Metro	3%
Clark	4%
East Balance	5%
Spokane	3%
Yakima-TriCities	6%
Statewide	3.5%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004
Regional designations are the same as the Washington State Population Survey –
additional information can be found at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/sps/>

Regions

North Sound:	Island, San Juan, Skagit, Whatcom
West Balance:	Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, , Klickitat, Lewis, Mason,, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum.
King:	King
Other Puget Sound Metro:	Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston
Clark:	Clark
East Balance:	Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman.
Spokane:	Spokane
Yakima-TriCities:	Benton, Franklin, and Yakima.

**Percentage of Adults who Used Smokeless Tobacco
by Year, 2003-2004**

2003	3.1%
2004	3.5%

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

Progress as of 2004:

Since implementation of the state's comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, current use of smokeless tobacco has remained unchanged in the past few years.

III. Quitting Smoking and Quitline Data

Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors About Quitting in 2004

- 68% of smokers say that they want to quit.
- 83% of smokers who say they would like to quit are seriously planning to quit within the next 6 months.
- 50% of smokers have heard of the Washington State “Quit Line.”
- 25% of smokers were advised to quit by their healthcare provider within the past year.
- 29% of smokers say that their health insurance will cover the cost of any help to quit using tobacco, such as stop smoking program or nicotine patches, pills or other medication. 38% say their health insurance will not cover the costs. 33% say they “don’t know.”

Source: 2004 Washington Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Quitline Data Summary for 2004

- In 2004 there were 11,965 screened calls made to the Quitline, an average of 1,000 calls per month.

Source: Quitline Data from January 01 to December 31, 2004; screened calls include ‘Call Types’ classified as ‘Information’, ‘Provider’, and ‘Tobacco User’ only.

- In 2004 there were 238 screened pregnant callers to the Quitline

**Distribution of Quitline Callers by Age and Gender, 2004
(N=10,352)**

	Male	Female	Total
Less than 18	1%	1%	2%
18-24	5%	9%	14%
25-34	8%	15%	23%
35-44	10%	16%	26%
45-54	9%	14%	22%
55-64	3%	6%	10%
65 and above	1%	2%	3%
All Adults	37%	63%	100%

Source: Quitline Data from January 01 to December 31, 2004

**Distribution of Quitline Callers by Race/Ethnicity, 2004
(N=9,796)**

White non-Hispanic	87%
Hispanic	1%
African American	5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	2%
Native American	4%
Other	1%

Source: Quitline Data from January 01 to December 31, 2004

**Distribution of Quitline Callers by Education, 2004
(N=10,135)**

Less than High School Degree	20%
High School Degree	36%
Some College	34%
College Graduate	10%

Source: Quitline Data from January 01 to December 31, 2004

Distribution of Quitline Callers by Payer Type, 2004 (N=8,035)

Insured	33%
Uninsured	29%
Medicaid	38%

Source: Quitline Data from January 01 to December 31, 2004

Number of Calls to the Quitline by Months, 2004

January	1,019
February	987
March	1,046
April	922
May	853
June	925
July	840
August	916
September	1,022
October	1,344
November	1,091
December	1,000

Source: Quitline Data from January 01 to December 31, 2004; calls include 'Call Types' classified as 'Information', 'Provider', and 'Tobacco User' only.

Number of Calls to the Quitline by Year, 2001-2004

2001	13,402
2002	13,188
2003	12,250
2004	11,965

Source: Quitline Data from January 01, 2001 to December 31, 2004; calls include 'Call Types' classified as 'Information', 'Provider', and 'Tobacco User' only.

IV. Youth Cigarette Use

- In 2004, approximately 13% of Washington 10th graders smoke cigarettes. Among all youth in Washington there are about 75,000 who smoke cigarettes. About 45 kids still start smoking every day in Washington.

Percentage of Youth who Smoked Cigarettes in the past 30 days by Grade and Gender, 2004

	Male	Female	Total
6th Grade	2%	2%	2.0%
8th Grade	7%	8%	7.8%
10th Grade	12%	14%	13.0%
12th Grade	21%	19%	19.7%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey, 2004

Percentage of Youth who Smoked Cigarettes in the past 30 days by Grade and Race/Ethnicity, 2004

	6 th Grade	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
White non-Hispanic	1%	7%	13%	20%
Hispanic	3%	9%	11%	13%
African American	3%	9%	12%	18%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%	5%	10%	19%
Native American	4%	20%	23%	37%
All Students in Specified Grade	2.0%	7.8%	13.0%	19.7%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey, 2004

**Percentage of Youth who Smoked Cigarettes in the past 30 days
by Grade and Region, 2004**

	6 th Grade	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
North Sound	2%	7%	13%	19%
West Balance	3%	10%	17%	22%
King	2%	4%	12%	17%
Other Puget Sound Metro	2%	8%	15%	21%
Clark	2%	7%	14%	20%
East Balance	3%	9%	14%	21%
Spokane	2%	6%	15%	*
Yakima-TriCities	2%	8%	13%	17%
Statewide	2.0%	7.8%	13.0%	19.7%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey, 2004

*County result not reported, county participation below 40%

Regional designations are the same as the Washington State Population Survey – additional information can be found at <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/sps/>

Regions

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King:	King
Other Puget Sound Metro:	Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston
Clark:	Clark
East Balance:	Adams, Asotin, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman.
Spokane:	Spokane
Yakima-TriCities:	Benton, Franklin, and Yakima.

**Percentage of Youth who Smoked Cigarettes in the past 30 days
by Grade and Year, 1998-2004**

	6 th Grade	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
1998	4.7%	15.2%	N/A	N/A
1999	N/A	N/A	25.0%	35.2%
2000	4.0%	12.5%	19.8%	27.6%
2002	2.2%	9.2%	15.0%	22.7%
2004	2.0%	7.8%	13.0%	19.7%

Source: 1998 and 2000 Washington State Survey of Adolescent Health Behaviors, 1999 Washington State Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2002 and 2004 Healthy Youth Survey

Progress as of 2004:

Since implementation of the state's comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, current use of cigarettes among grade school youths has consistently decreased from 1999 to 2004. As a result, there are about 65,000 fewer Washington children smoking.

V. Youth Alternative Tobacco Use

Smokeless Tobacco Use

- In 2004, approximately 4.9% of Washington 10th graders used smokeless tobacco. Among all youth in Washington, there are about 30,000 who use smokeless tobacco.

Percentage of Youth who Used Smokeless Tobacco in the past 30 days by Grade and Gender, 2004

	Male	Female	Total
6 th Grade	1%	1%	1.0%
8 th Grade	3%	2%	2.8%
10 th Grade	8%	2%	4.9%
12 th Grade	14%	2%	7.6%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey, 2004

Cigar Smoking

Percentage of Youth who Smoked Cigars in the past 30 days by Grade and Gender, 2004

	Male	Female	Total
8 th Grade	7%	6%	6.4%
10 th Grade	13%	10%	11.4%
12 th Grade	25%	13%	18.3%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey, 2004

Bidi Smoking

Percentage of Youth who Smoked Bidis in the past 30 days by Grade and Gender, 2004

	Male	Female	Total
8 th Grade	5%	6%	5.3%
10 th Grade	9%	7%	8.1%
12 th Grade	11%	6%	8.3%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey, 2004

Pipe Smoking

Percentage of Youth who Smoked Tobacco in a Pipe in the past 30 days by Grade and Gender, 2004

	Male	Female	Total
8 th Grade	4%	4%	4.0%
10 th Grade	7%	4 %	5.6%
12 th Grade	8%	2%	5.0%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey, 2004

Clove Cigarette Use

Percentage of Youth who Smoked Clove Cigarettes in the past 30 days by Grade and Gender, 2004

	Male	Female	Total
8 th Grade	4%	3%	3.5%
10 th Grade	7%	4%	5.5%
12 th Grade	8%	4%	5.5%

Source: Healthy Youth Survey, 2004

VI. Tobacco Use During Pregnancy

- In 2004, approximately 10% of infants in Washington were born to mothers who used tobacco during pregnancy – equivalent to more than 8,000 births that year.

Percentage of Births to Mothers who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy by Mother's Age, 2004

Less than 18 years old	16%
18-19 years old	22%
20-24 years old	16%
25-29 years old	9%
30 years and older	5%
Overall	10.2%

Source: Washington State Birth Certificate System

Percentage of Births to Mothers who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy by Mother's Education, 2004

Less than High School Graduate	18%
High School Graduate or GED	16%
Some College	9%
College Graduate	1%
Overall	10.2%

Source: Washington State Birth Certificate System

Percentage of Births to Mothers who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy by Race/Ethnicity, 2004

White, Non-Hispanic	12.7%
African American, Non-Hispanic	10.8%
Native American, Non-Hispanic	19.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	3.0%
Hispanic	3.3%
Total	10.2%

Source: Washington State Birth Certificate System

**Percentage of Infants Born to Mothers who Used Tobacco During
Pregnancy by Year, 1998-2003**

1998	14.6%
1999	14.2%
2000	13.5%
2001	12.6%
2002	12.0%
2003	10.9%
2004	10.2%

Source: Washington State Birth Certificate System. Unknowns have been subtracted from total births in calculating percentages.

Progress as of 2004:

Since implementation of the state's comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, the percentage of infants born to mothers who used tobacco during pregnancy has decreased by 30%.

VII. Secondhand Smoke Exposure

In Worksites

- 8% of currently employed Washingtonians say that in a typical week they have been exposed to second hand smoke for more than an hour at their workplace.
 - ❖ Of those who have been exposed to smoke in their workplace for more than an hour 54% are non-smokers.
- 9% of currently employed Washingtonians say that in a typical week they have been exposed to second hand smoke at their workplace - for less than an hour
 - ❖ Of those who have been exposed to smoke in their workplace for less than an hour 76% are non-smokers.
- 10% of currently employed Washingtonians in 2004 say that smoking is allowed in some or all indoor work areas at their workplace.

Source: Washington Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2004

- On December 8, 2005 Washington State became the 10th state in the nation to implement a comprehensive indoor smoking law, which resulted from 2-1 Voter approval of Initiative 901 in November. The revised Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits smoking in indoor public spaces and places of employment, including restaurants, bars, taverns, bowling centers and non-tribal casinos.

At Home

- 87% of Washingtonians say that no one smoked in their home in the past 30 days.
 - ❖ 5% say that someone has smoked in their home within the past 30 days.
 - ❖ 8% say that someone has smoked in their home every day.
- 84% of Washingtonians say that no one is allowed to smoke inside their home.
 - ❖ 55% of Washingtonian smokers say that no one is allowed to smoke inside their home.
- 10% of adults with children in the household say that smoking occurred in the home in the past 30 days. This is down from 19% in 2000, a reduction of 47%.

Source: Washington Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2004

- 70% of youths report that they do not live with anyone who smokes.

Source: Washington Healthy Youth Survey, 2004

Public Opinion

- 91% of Washingtonians say that breathing secondhand smoke is harmful.
- 95% of Washingtonians say that ALL children should be protected from secondhand smoke.
- 94% of Washingtonians favor banning tobacco use by adults on school grounds or at any school events.

Source: Washington Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2004

Appendix A: Data Sources

Data represented in this report were obtained from a variety of sources. The following provides a brief description of each data system. Analyses for this report were completed using Intercooled Stata 9.0. Some estimates were obtained from previously published reports.

Population Data

Population data are taken from Office of Financial Management (OFM), Forecasting Division, “Census 2000 Results for Washington”, www.ofm.wa.gov/census2000/index.htm

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual telephone survey that provides indicators of health risk behavior, preventive practices, attitudes, health care use and access, and prevalence of selected diseases in Washington. BRFSS was first implemented in Washington State in 1987, and is supported in part by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survey includes a sample of English-speaking adults age 18 years and older in households with telephones. Interviews are conducted in English by a survey firm under contract to the Department of Health (DOH) following survey administration protocols established by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- For more information on Washington State BRFSS, go to: www.doh.wa.gov/brfss
- For more information on national BRFSS, go to: www.cdc.gov/brfss

Birth Certificate System

The Washington State Birth Certificate System has information about each baby born in Washington State. Similar information is collected for mothers who live in Washington but have a baby in another state or country. Thus, the Birth Certificate System contains records on all births occurring in the state and nearly all births to residents of the state.

Information is gathered about the mother, the father, the pregnancy, and the child. The information is collected in hospitals and birth centers from worksheets completed by parents or medical staff, from medical charts, or by a combination of these sources. Midwives and family members who deliver a baby complete the birth certificate and collect the information from a parent or from their records.

The major purposes of the birth system are 1) to establish legal rights associated with birth, paternity, and adoption and 2) to provide public health information about births and newborns. These data can be used by data analysts, policy makers, health care providers and others to help improve the health of mothers and children.

Death Certificate System

The Death Certificate System provides public health information and establishes legal benefits. The system includes all deaths in Washington, for residents and occurrences, back to 1907. The system provides demographic information as well as the underlying cause and contributing causes of death. Cause of death is reported by the attending physician or the coroner/medical examiner. From 1980-1998, cause of death coding was performed by DOH nosologists using the International Classification of Disease, Ninth Revision (ICD-9), published by the World Health Organization.

Beginning in 1999, Washington State began using the ICD-10 classification system. The change to ICD-10 will create a discontinuity in trends that must be accounted for when comparing 1999-forward mortality with prior years. 1999-forward cause-of-death data are not comparable to prior years unless adjustments are made for coding and classification changes.

Caution is advised for analyzing certain population subgroups (e.g., race groups such as Native American) because the number of deaths may be underestimated due to misclassification.

Healthy Worksite Survey Data

The Department of Health conducted a survey in the summer/fall of 2004 (Phase I) and 2005 (Phase II) in order to evaluate the health policy improvement work in Washington State worksites. The Healthy Worksite Survey addressed questions related to tobacco use, nutrition, physical activity, and asthma. County-level samples were used to collect tobacco-specific policy information for more than 1,600 businesses in Phase I. Phase II was a follow-up survey of a sub-sample of about 500 of the same businesses to provide statewide estimates for measures related to nutrition, physical activity and asthma.

Healthy Youth Survey Data

The Washington State Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) is a school-based survey of students in grades 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th in a random sample of public schools in Washington State. It is administered every other year during class time and contains questions about behaviors that result in unintentional and intentional injury (e.g., seat belt use, fighting and weapon carrying); physical activity and dietary behaviors (e.g., fruit and vegetable consumption), physical activity, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; and related risk and protective factors. The survey includes items from the CDC-sponsored Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and Youth Tobacco Survey, the National Institute on Drug Abuse-sponsored Monitoring the Future survey, and the Social Development Research Group's Risk and Protective Factor Assessment instrument.

In Fall 2004, 185,095 students anonymously participated in the survey.

Rural Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) System

The RUCA system is a census tract-based classification scheme, which utilizes the standard Bureau of Census urban area and place definitions in combination with commuting information to characterize census tracts. We used a four-tiered consolidation of the Rural Urban Commuting Area (RUCA) system to determine whether the respondents lived in an urban core (continuously built up areas with 50,000 persons or more), large metro (census tract tied to urban core and have commuting relationships with the urban core areas), large town (towns with populations between 10,000 and 49,999 persons with commuting relationships to surrounding large towns), or small town/rural (populations below 10,000 persons with primarily local commuting and isolated rural towns) areas.

- For more information on the RUCA system, go to: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Data/Guidelines/RuralUrban.htm>

Quit Line Data

The Washington State Department of Health sponsors the Washington State Tobacco Quit Line, a telephone service that provides support, information, and referrals to tobacco users, their families and friends, and health care providers. Data collected from this system is used to monitor and document service utilization and describe callers' characteristics (e.g. demographics).

Appendix B: Technical Notes

Smoking-Attributable Disease and Death

Smoking-attributable fractions (the proportion of any particular illness in a population that is determined to be caused by cigarette smoking) were used in combination with Washington State Death Certificate data to estimate deaths attributed to cigarette smoking in the state summary. For this report, 18% of deaths overall were estimated to have been caused by cigarette smoking¹. The average number of deaths for the three-year period of 2000-2002 was used to estimate the annual number of tobacco-related deaths (18% of average deaths): about 8,000 annual deaths attributable to smoking.

Population

Year 2000 population estimates were used to arrive at estimated number of smokers. For more information, see www.ofm.wa.gov/census2000/index.htm.

Hispanic Origin

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) does not treat Hispanic Origin as a race. Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race. “Origin” as used by the Census Bureau refers to “the ancestry, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person’s parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States.” Persons of Hispanic Origin have their origins in a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking country such as Mexico, Cuba, or Puerto Rico, or the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America.

The Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) 2004 treats Hispanic as a race.

Adult Tobacco Use

An adult is classified as a “current smoker” if he or she reported having smoked more than 5 packs (100 cigarettes) in his/her lifetime, and also reported currently using tobacco “every day” or “some days” in the BRFSS. An adult is classified as a “current smokeless tobacco user” if he or she reported having ever tried smokeless tobacco and has used smokeless tobacco products in the past 30 days. An adult is classified as a “cigar smoker” if he or she reported having smoked a cigar in the past month (even just a puff).

The data are weighted to represent all adults. The data may underestimate some health behaviors associated with non-English-speaking populations, transient populations, institutionalized persons, and military personnel in military housing. Due to the nature of self-reported data, there may be some underestimation of risk factors that are seen as socially unacceptable.

¹ “Actual Causes of Death in the United States, 2000”; Mokdad, Marks, Stroup, Gerberding; *JAMA*; Vol. 291 (10); Mar. 10, 2004; pg. 1238-1245.

Youth Tobacco Use

A youth is classified as a “current smoker” or “current smokeless tobacco user” if he or she reported using tobacco within the past 30 days in the 2004 Healthy Youth Survey (HYS). School-based surveys may underestimate risk behaviors associated with youth who drop out of school or do not attend school. Due to the self-reported nature of the data, certain behaviors may be under-reported.

Maternal Smoking

Mothers who reported smoking anytime during pregnancy on the infant’s birth certificate were classified as smokers. As mothers self-report smoking and public awareness shifts increasingly toward disapproval of smoking during pregnancy, there may be an increasing tendency to under-report smoking.